THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for all.

Vol. IV.—No. 33 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1917 Price One Penny

THE FOOD QUESTION

WHAT A DOCKER'S WIFE THINKS

DEAR EDITOR,—Please tell Lord Rhondda that the price of everything is so high that it is impossible to buy the common necessaries, especially those articles which are so necessary to keep the man's strength up for manual labour. Take, for instance, bacon. If you bought it by the piece before the war the hock was 4½*d*. per lb.; now cut in slices for buying it is 1*s*. 10*d*. per lb. I got half a pound at that price last week; it was bad and I had to take it back. Eggs are 3*d*. and 4*d*. each. Margarine, 4*d*. per lb. before the war, is now 1*s*. 2*d*. per lb. when the Colonial and Maypole run out. Fish: Bloaters 3*d*. each; Fresh herrings 2*d*. each. We cannot get any other kind of fish. Rice 4*d*. per lb.; dripping 1*s*. 2*d*. per lb. Now for the meat. I want to point out that you can get flank of beef for 1*s*. 1*d*. per lb., which before the war was 4½*d*. per lb., but if you want pieces to make a stew for the children you have to pay 1*s*. 4*d*. and 1*s*. 6*d*. per lb.

Now I want to point out that it is not possible to buy two joints a week. After the joint has gone a woman with a large family will buy 1 lb. of pieces and make that last with vegetables for two days. I think it scandalous that because the poor have to resort to this economy they must pay more for pieces than for the joint. Before the war we could get block pieces 6*d*. and 8*d*. per lb. for stewing. We know we are being robbed; but what can we expect from a capitalist Government! Our children are not so strong; our men feel they have not the same strength. But let the capitalists get on with their high prices; they are teaching the women such a lesson that when women have the vote over goes the capitalist and in goes a strong Labour and Socialist Government. They are digging their own graves, and that day will come, and very soon, when we the workers will dance on them.

MELVINA WALKER.

POPULAR FOOD CONTROL

The people are beginning to take the question of food control into their own hands. At Llandilo, on November 2nd, a crowd of colliers and others, gathered in the Market place to prevent the carriers taking butter away, until the local people had been supplied. Eventually the carriers agreed to part with half their purchases and the police distributed the commandeered butter amongst the assembled people, selling 1 lb. to each person.

At Romiley the local Food Control Committees fixed the price of milk at 6d. per quart, the farmers refused to sell at less than 7d., and attempted to send their milk by train to districts where they could get more money for it. On November 2nd, however, the people seized the cans, removed them to a common centre and there had the milk sold at 6d. per quart, by members of the Local Food Control Committee, under medical advice. Children and invalids first had their needs supplied, the milk that remained being distributed as equally as possible amongst other people. Popular control thus proved to be, not the cruel unreasoning mob rule, that people would have us imagine it, but something infinitely juster and more desirable than the commercial system. The proceeds of the sale were handed to the farmers who had attempted to deprive their neighbours of milk. It is time that the supply was taken out of their hands. We hope that the people of other districts will follow the wise lead given at Romiley and Llandilo!

Farmers Remarkable Suggestion.

The Oldham Local Food Control Committee has fixed the price of milk at 6d. per quart; the farmers demand 7d. The Oldham and District Farmers' Association is therefore suggesting that the local committee should take over the farms and pay the farmers a reasonable wage for working them, the national price of milk being fixed at 4d. per quart. We most emphatically urge that the suggestion should be adopted. The farmers have also asked that farmers and milk dealers should be subsidised by the Government. To this plan we are opposed. If the community takes over the farms, pays the farmers a reasonable wage, and altogether eliminates private profit, it will probably be found possible to sell the milk at 4d. a quart without a subsidy; and if the price should be subsidised under these conditions the subsidy will not be going into private pockets. The Whalley Bridge Food Control Committee has fixed the milk price at 5d. a quart; the farmers refuse to sell at less than 6d. The Padiham Committee has fixed the price at 5½d., the farmers refuse to sell.

THE FOOD PROBLEM IN GERMANY

Carl Ackerman, in the "Daily Telegraph" says that the spread of Socialist feeling amongst the German people, has forced their Government to take various drastic steps, including the taking over of all food imports by the Government and of all home cattle and poultry, the farmers being forbidden to kill their own live stock or to sell it to private individuals.

DUBLIN TO-DAY

In Dublin the Sinn Fein Convention and the Ashe Enquiry occupy the thoughts of the people to the exclusion of all else. The news that London has been wiped out by air raids creates only a passing interest. Sinn Fein is triumphant—London has ceased to count.

At the Ashe Enquiry the Court was packed with rebels. The tri-colour of the Republic was to be seen everywhere—on hats, in tie pins, brooches, scarves. Outside in the pale sunshine a woman held up a green, white and yellow flag with a crape bow at the top. Around her surged crowds of men and women, mostly young, with a mingling of children. They were waiting for the prisoners who were to give evidence. Across the cobbled road stood a line of enormous policemen, like giants out of a story book, and away behind them, up the steps against the wooden door of the court-house, were more giants barring the public from the morgue.

As each well-known man or woman went up the steps the crowd made audible comments:

"There's his mother and sister—God bless them! It's sad and proud they are this day."

"Look! There's the bald-headed wretch that's hiding the murderers. I wonder how much he sold his miserable soul for!"

"See, there's Madam herself, as lively as ever. They'll not get rid of her as easily as they thought."

Inside, Tim Healy, his keen eyes now raised, taking in every passing expression on the faces of his auditors, now bent to the papers on the table, his shoulders stooped as though beneath a burden of learning, held up to execration the ignorance, heartlessness and cruelty of his country's rulers. When, in spite of all endeavours, sighs, murmurs of applause and agreement, or ripples of laughter at his wit, flashed out, he would gaze around rebukingly, yet tenderly, at the occupants of the packed seats, reminding them that though he and they understood each other, their enemies were well represented there.

The pert little figure of his opponent jumping up like a jack-in-the-box with his repeated: "I object, Mr. Chairman," caused an irritation, which was but partly allayed by Tim Healy's pathetic resignation and the memory that Mr. Hanna has done good work in non-political cases.

Healy's tribute to the women hunger-strikers, who, a few years ago, in fighting for the liberty of their sex, struck a definite blow for the rights of democracy, led on to a eulogy of those who for 700 years had worked and died for Ireland. Every eye flashed as his words rang out in the almost painful stillness. He drew himself erect. He looked across at the jury, not as though they were sitting in judgment upon the murderers of Thomas Ashe, but upon those who would have murdered the soul of a nation.

The expression on his face was typical of all those in the movement. One saw it in the faces of the delegates at the Convention, when farmers, scholars, priests, women, met to decide the future of Ireland. It was repeated in the faces of those young men who, after relieving the police of their duties by regulating the traffic outside the Mansion House on the morning of the Convention, marched off down Grafton Street singing the "Soldiers' Song." Those who meet night after night to learn the language and the old dances as a religious duty, and the young lads who drill and are arrested week after week, wear the same look.

The women have secured their position under the Sinn Fein Republic. Labour must follow their example. Of course, the question of equal rights for men and women affects the world of labour, but more remains to be done, and it is evident from the wide-awake attitude of those concerned that it will be done well.

Those who think that a difference in politics will prevent the people of Ireland from attending to social questions should have been present at the meetings of the Judge Neil Reception Committee at the Mansion House. There Sinn Feiner, Unionist, so-called Nationalist, and representatives of non-political charitable organisations met together and discussed the barefoot children of Dublin.

Every paper seller pushes the Sinn Fein papers, the errand boys whistle the "Soldiers' Song" and "Whack fol the diddle." The road to Glasnevin is still decorated with the Republican flags hung out for Ashe's funeral. In every mind there is a picture of the road to liberty marked with the graves of martyrs, beautified by the names of those who march on, whether the crowd follows behind or not.

The ruins which mark the spots where the Rebellion of Easter Week openly blazed out are still there, but the work of reconstruction, of which that Rebellion was part, still goes on. Connolly is dead, but his spirit lives. As one dies others bring their brains, their youth, their enthusiasm. Liberty Hall, bombarded and shattered, is still the home of freedom. Many rooms cannot be used, but one can walk up the staircase in comparative safety, and Grace Gifford is decorating the walls. Out of defeat and destruction are growing success and beauty, because, as A.E. says, a nation good and kind and with a touch of genius like the Irish must inevitably emerge from all its troubles.—PATRICIA LYNCH.

Of Special Interest this week

"PEACE TALK' IN PARLIAMENT

LYNCH LAW IN CEYLON

HYDE PARK ARREST

On Sunday the W.S.F. held its usual meeting in Hyde Park. Miss Birch, a young member, took the chair, and made what was practically her maiden speech. A very sympathetic crowd of about 250 people was gathered round the platform. It applauded her when she said that the people did not want war, but the capitalists did: the Belgians wanted Peace, and so did we. She mentioned the high price of food, and the wickedness of bringing black people into the War. There was no opposition, but marked sympathy.

As Miss Birch was concluding her speech two plain clothes men stepped forward and arrested her. She was taken to the station and told that she was arrested for her own protection. After being detained for two hours she was released on bail. At Marlborough Street on Monday morning she was fined 2*s*. 6*d*. and warned if she were brought up again during the next 12 months her bail would be forfeit.* Only police witnesses were allowed, and her claim that she had given absolute facts and nothing else was ignored.

[*This seems contrary to the law.—Editor.]

POLICE SEIZE PEACE BANNERS

On Sunday afternoon Miss Tollemache, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Brimley and others went to St. Patrick's Church, Soho, with Peace banners. After parading there for a quarter of an hour they marched with their banners to St. Mary's, Charing Cross Road, but as they neared the church two policemen approached, and one of them very roughly snatched the banners from the women, and then demanded their names and addresses. Miss Tollemache asked him under what authority he was acting. He replied the Defence of the Realm Act, which gave him power to do anything he liked. In proof of this, he showed cuts on his hand, which he said he had got through breaking into a man's house. Miss Tollemache said she would like to go with the policeman to the police-station to find out whether the seizure of the banners was authorised. The policeman agreed, but said that she must take notice that he had not arrested her.

At Marlborough Street Police Station the Inspector stated that action had been taken by order of the military authorities and that he could keep the peace pickets in custody if they failed to give their names. After they had returned to their homes, the pickets were called on by constables in plain clothes, who came to verify their names and addresses.

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Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation.
400 OLD FORD ROAD, LONDON, E.
Telephone: EAST 1787.

Annual Subscription - Post free, 6s. 6d.

AGENTS:
INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross, W. C.; ST. BRIDE'S HOUSE, Salisbury Square; Messrs. W. H. SMITH AND SONS, Strand, W.C.; CITY AND SUBURBAN PUBLISHING CO., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL AND CO., Temple Avenue, E.C.; Messrs. TOLER, Savoy Street, Strand; MARLBOROUGH, 51 Old Bailey, E.C.; A. RITCHIE, Pemberton Row, Gough Square, E.C.; A. AND E. HARVEY, 5 Gough Square; SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON AND KENT, Paternoster Row, E.C.; A. RAGGETT, Clark Street, Stepney, E.; MAYOR BROS., Green Street, Bethnal Green; JOHN HEYWOOD, Manchester; THE WHOLESALE SOCIETY, 10 Johnson Street, Bolton; REFORMERS' BOOK STALL and HERALD LEAGUE, Glasgow.
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Back Numbers, 2½d. post free.

All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

Vol. IV., No. 93. Sat., November 10th, 1917.

MAKING AN IMPRESSION.

Our Women Peace Pickets at the House of Commons and at the churches have bravely endeavoured to awake the public mind to sanity and to a sense of perspective by displaying upon their little banners great truths expressed in simple words. What the Peace Pickets have accomplished we cannot measure, but evidently they are making too great an impression upon some of their opponents, for, in response to a question by Mr. Butcher, M.P., in the House of Commons on October 22nd, Sir George Cave announced that the Peace Picket at the House of Commons would be stopped. That afternoon the police took the banners from the women pickets. On the two following Sundays the same thing happened. One of the War-time Home Secretaries has laid it down that peace propaganda is not illegal: it would be monstrous to make it so. This picket is but propaganda by those who believe that a people's peace can now be made. Men are enduring a martyrdom in the trenches, suffering physical, mental and moral ills which time never can blot out. Men who believe the War to be unjust and inhuman have entered the dull, grey prison cell; has the Government thrown down a challenge to the women to follow them?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The ATTACK on the DREADNOUGHT

In response to our appeal for £35 to cover the expenses caused to us by the Government's attack upon THE DREADNOUGHT, friends have generously rallied to our support, and, as the following list of donations shows, the amount has been over-subscribed. The balance has been placed to THE DREADNOUGHT Fund.

Mr. Harrison Barrow, £5; Mr. Israel Zangwill, £1 1s.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver, £1; Miss L. Bent, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. D. Pearce, £1 1s.; J. Leakey, Esq., £1 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Roden Buxton, £5; Mrs. C. E. Payne, £2; Mr. A. Hudson, 1s.; Mr. A. Allbright, £10; Mr. G. W. Phippen, 2s. 6d.; Anon (Liverpool), 4s.; Mr. Tidworth, 1s.; Mr. Parker, 1s.; A Fellow Worker, 10s.; Clemence and Lawrence Housman, 10s.; Mrs. A. D. Sanger, £5; Richd. Whitwell Esq., £3; Mrs. Crosland Taylor, £2; Dr. E. Scarlett Synge, 5s.; Mr. F. W. Sharrocks, 5s.; Miss E. Gulland, 10s.; I.L.P. (Leicester Branch), £1; Mrs. S. A. Wheaton, 5s.; Miss Rhoda Stringer, 5s.; Anon, £10; Miss E. L. Mackerness, 2s.; Anon, £5; Anon, 2s. 6d. Total, £55 18s. 6d.

WOMEN TRAM CONDUCTORS

At Ynyshir, in the Rhondda Valley, the women tram conductors are expected to work 100 hours free when first engaged. The miners who use the trams work a 48-hour week; would they agree to work two weeks and half a day free when going to a new pit? After this period of unpaid labour, the women work from 4.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the rate of 4½d. an hour. They are expected to attend at the depôt at 4.30 each morning whether there is work for them or not, and if, as frequently happens, there is no work for a conductor, she gets no pay. To decide who shall be taken on, tickets are passed round in a hat, and those who draw the lucky numbers get the work. This irregular employment continues for many weeks, till, at last, the newcomer is put on one car and gets regular work. The conductors are not obliged to work overtime on weekdays, though they have the option of doing so, but if they refuse to work overtime on Saturdays they are dismissed.

The women of Ynyshir should refuse to work under these oppressive conditions, and the South Wales Miners' Federation should support them by declaring a boycott of the cars till the conductors' grievances are remedied. "An injury to one is an injury to all."

* * * *

The Ministry of Reconstruction has now attached to it a Minister, eleven secretaries and a legal adviser. What is the Ministry doing?

"PEACE TALK" IN PARLIAMENT

During the debate on the Peace Negotiations Resolution in Parliament on November 6th Mr. Lees Smith (L.), who has fought as a private soldier in the trenches, pointed to the self-evident fact that a League of Nations and a real European partnership cannot be established unless the Central Empires are admitted to it, and that a commercial boycott of those or any nations would render such a partnership impossible. Mr. R. Lambert (L.) also said that when peace was discussed Germany must be welcomed. But these Members were assailed with cries of "Never, never" and "Would you shake their bloody hands?"

But these were the turbulent outbursts of more or less irresponsible private Members, the statements of members of the Government are more important. Mr. Lees Smith recalled the fact that as the War has proceeded new secret agreements have come to light, and that on July 31st, in the French Chamber, M. Ribot, the French Foreign Minister, admitted that there was an agreement between France and Russia, entered into by the Czar, and re-asserted by M. Briand after the Revolution, by which, if the Allies are victorious, France is to have from Germany not only Alsace-Lorraine, but tracts of other territory on the west bank of the Rhine, including the Saar Valley. Mr. Balfour here cried out "Absurd," although one of his colleagues in the Government (Sir Edward Carson) has publicly stated that the German frontier is to be pushed back east of the Rhine. Mr. Lees Smith then said that only ten days ago the new French Foreign Minister, M. Barthou, insisted that, in addition to Alsace-Lorraine, France would seek further guarantees on the left bank of the Rhine. Mr. Balfour again persisted that Mr. Lees Smith had "discovered a mare's nest," and that "there is no such treaty"; but, we regret to say, that such Governmental denials carry no conviction. We remember that again and again over a period of years the Government denied that the engagements into which it had entered bound us to support France and Russia in the event of a European War, yet so it was, as everyone now knows. And so it is, we believe, in regard to this treaty or understanding—it matters not what it be called—which is forcing the unknowing peoples to fight in support of this aggressive object which is cherished by a certain section of French jingo capitalists. Mr. Balfour complained that Mr. Lees Smith ought not to have suggested that the Allied War aims, instead of being "to free small nationalities and to make the constitution of the States of Europe as far as possible harmonise with the wishes of the inhabitants," are to "take what is admittedly German territory and tear it away from the German Empire." Mr. Balfour complained that Mr. Lees Smith had based his statements on "unauthenticated gossip." But though his complaints may deceive those who do not trouble to consider the facts, Mr. Balfour should know that no thoughtful person can dismiss as "unauthenticated gossip" the statements made in response to French Parliamentary criticism by two successive French Foreign Ministers, that of M. Ribot being in answer to accusations by the German Chancellor. If Mr. Balfour and the British Government are not prepared to support France in wresting from the Germans the part of Germany east of the Rhine, why did not Mr. Balfour and the British Government protest when M. Ribot admitted that France has entered into an agreement with Russia for this purpose?

Mr. Balfour went on to give a new definition of British war aims: "We desire the restitution of Alsace-Lorraine, and for that, without doubt, we are fighting. . . . We desire to see the map of Europe so rearranged that the various peoples shall live under the form of government they desire . . . it is not Europe only we must consider . . . but no small part of Asia." He added that we are fighting to free Armenia from Turkey, to create an independent Poland, to place the Rumanians under the Rumanian flag, and to make the Serbian community "a great, a flourishing and a united Power." This last, of course, means the creation of a new Southern Slav State to block German trade in the East, the interests of the peoples are a secondary matter in the scheme. It is interesting here to remember that the Russian capitalists, for whom Tereschenko, the present Foreign Minister, speaks, refuse to agree that Poland should be freed! Mr. Asquith echoed Mr. Balfour, saying that these were the original aims with which Britain entered the War, though Mr. McCurdy (L.) frankly asked whether the movers of the resolution really supposed "that as an assembly of business people we are going to confine our attention to-day to the original objects of the War." Mr. Balfour further rebuked Mr. Ramsay MacDonald for suggesting that the War must go on till Germany and all Europe have been democratised. Mr. Balfour should argue *this* out with Mr. Lloyd George!

"RUSSIA BEGAN THE WAR": WILL SHE END IT?

In spite of the Revolution, Russian Imperialists are still striving for annexations. Tereschenko, the present Russian Foreign Minister, voices the views of the Imperialists. In a recent speech to the Provisional Parliament he has frankly stated that Russia desires the development of her productive resources and to obtain an ice-free outlet to the sea, and that from this point of view the most favourable combination for her to join is that of her present Allies. The anti-annexationist policy he described as German. He added that to give Poland, Lithuania and the Lettish districts the right to decide their own destiny would leave Russia without an ice-free port on the Baltic, and therefore could not be accepted. The neutralisation of the Dardanelles would also be contrary to the interests of Russia. Thus, to protect certain trade interests, men in high places are prepared to keep entire peoples in perpetual and unwilling subjection, and to continue the world-war. The interests of humanity as a whole and the special interests of each country could be better served by establishing universal free trade and internationalising certain ports in various parts of the world, but the policy of "beggar my neighbour" has hitherto prevented this being done.

Tereschenko, being strongly opposed to the views of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council, has declared that if Skobeleff, the Council's representative, goes to the Paris Conference he will resign, whilst the Council has said that it will not be represented if Tereschenko goes to the Conference. Skobeleff's position is strengthened by the fact that he has been elected Chairman of the Preliminary Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. The self-same struggle which resulted in the fall of the Czar and the subsequent resignation of such men as Rodzianko and Miliukoff, both Imperialist opponents of genuine popular freedom, is still going on in Russia. We trust that when the Socialist element next comes uppermost it will hold firmly to peace and Socialism, and not allow itself to be side-tracked.

The Russian Peasants' Council is often quoted by the British capitalist newspapers as the body which will act as a bar to Socialist demands, but the recent declarations of this body must be disappointing to them. The Peasants' Council has declared against an economic after-war boycott of the Central Powers; it suggests that the future of Alsace-Lorraine, Transylvania, Bohemia and other parts of Austria shall be decided by a vote of the people. It urges that Belgium should be restored and indemnified by Germany, but that Belgium's general losses should be paid out of an international fund. The Peasant Councils' most serious mistake is the unpractical declaration that peace negotiations must be preceded by the withdrawal of all armies.

Meanwhile the soldiers are wearying of discussions, and in various parts of the Eastern front it is reported that the men in the opposing armies are fraternising.

KERENSKY'S POLICY

Kerensky, in an interview with an Associated Press correspondent, is reported as using the curious phrase, "Russia began the War," in developing his claim that the Allies shall now bear the heaviest part of the War burden. Kerensky says that Russian public opinion asks "Where is the great British fleet now that the German fleet is in the Baltic?" He says that America should send Russia boots, leather, iron and money, and declares that Russia has fought her battles alone. Kerensky has been foremost in insisting that Russia must remain in the War and uphold the Allies, in spite of the fact that the Allied Governments have refused to assent to the Revolutionary peace formula, "No annexations; no indemnities; the right of the peoples to decide their own destiny." Is Kerensky beginning to realise that his policy has been mistaken, and that it is best for Russia to lead the way in making peace?

THE WOMEN'S ARMY

THE outfit of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps is full of interest to women. It consists of a coat frock and bloomers and no other under garments whatever. Two pairs of stockings and one pair of shoes. Should these shoes require mending they must be repaired in the Army workshops, the women paying cost; but no provision is made for the women to do anything but go barefooted meanwhile. All numerals, stripes and badges must be bought, and we hear that overcoats are very insufficient abroad, the home forces being supplied first. In addition to all these attractions, those women who may injure their health in the effort to serve their country are not included in the army pension scheme. Any complaints made expose the individuals to court-martial.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE ITALIAN REVERSES

The Press Association announces that the Italian reverses are due to a small portion of the Italian troops having refused to fight, so that the Germans were able to march through without firing a shot. All such statements should be received with reserve; but, if this report is true, the War is evidently most unpopular with the Italians who are expected to carry it on. Only very serious discontent and disagreement with the official War policy induces soldiers to lay down their arms. Government rests on the consent of the governed; if the Italian people are opposed to the War, what is their remedy? The moral of the incident is that peace should be declared on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities, the right of the peoples to decide their own destiny.

CHINA'S DOOM

The agreement between the United States and Japan regarding China states that:—

"Territorial propinquity creates special relations between countries and consequently the United States recognises that Japan has special interests in China, particularly in that part to which her possessions are contiguous. . . . The Governments of the United States and Japan deny that they have any purpose to infringe, in any way, the independence or territorial integrity of China and they declare furthermore, that they always adhere to the principle of the so-called "open door" or equal opportunity of commerce and industry in China."

The unsophisticated may ask, "What is this all about? If China's independence is not to be infringed, what have the United States and Japan to do with her trade? Surely her tariffs and other trade arrangements are matters for China herself to decide?" But this agreement between Japan and the United States is cast in the traditional form used when the Great Powers decide to annex a defenceless country. Japan and the United States will now cut China up between them. Before the War Britain several times jealously barred the way when China was threatened by the other Powers, but now Britain acquiesces. This is the price of America's entry into the War. China will now become the vassal of Japan and the United States, and unless chance or her own exertions free her, the development of her people will be clogged for many a generation to come. Japan woke up and learnt the ways of the West in time to avoid a similar fate; now she helps to place chains upon her neighbour. Meanwhile our statesmen (?) pretend to wage a war of freedom!

VINDICTIVE PUNISHMENT

In dealing with the case of the East London boy who was executed for desertion because he was ill and left the trench, we learnt that the dependants of men in the Services who are shot under the severe military code are deprived of pension. The Keighley Guardians are now making an appeal that the wives and children of deserters who have been shot shall not thus be penalised. Other Boards are joining in the appeal; but the Staines Guardians have refused to do so, the Rev. Fairfax Scott and the Rev. J. F. V. Lee asserting that the punishment of the wives and dependants will deter other men from deserting. These two hard-hearted fellows belong to a profession which is protected from military service. They should apply themselves to a serious study of the Bible; evidently they have forgotten the teachings of Christ!

MUZZLED?

On November 5th Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Government was "considering the suppression of questions to Ministers, the subject-matter of which was calculated to injure the national interest in time of War." Will members of Parliament forego their right to question Ministers, the right which now is almost the only means of securing publicity for the wrongs which are perpetrated in the people's name and for the cruel hardships which are unjustly laid upon the defenceless?

THE LONG PURSE AND THE BIG BATTALIONS

Lord Robert Cecil told a Reuter representative that there is no reason to suppose that the Italian reverses will affect the result of the War, because on the economic side the forces of the Allies are "overwhelmingly stronger" than those of the Central Powers, and "We have on our side countries with populations ten times bigger" and "our wealth is nearly proportionate." Surely, then, we should have the courage to make peace!

ASHE AND RIBIERO.

Shall another life be needlessly thrown away? The Jury in the case of Thomas Ashe, the Sinn Fein prisoner who died of forcible feeding said:—

"We condemn forcible or mechancial feeding as an inhuman and dangerous operation, and it should be discontinued."

Emmanuel Ribiero, a conscientious objector, has been forcibly fed in Lord Derby's hospital since January. There is grave danger of his becoming insane. No good purpose can be served by prolonging his torture. Why not let him go?

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

October 30th.—Mr. Snowden (Lab.) asked whether it was an understood thing amongst the Allies that if any one of them received any peace overtures the fact would be communicated to all the other Allies. Lord R. Cecil said in reply that it was an understood thing that the "material facts" of the war should be communicated to all the Allies.

PEACE TERMS.

Mr. Trevelyan (L.) asked for information as to the offer of the German Government conveyed to M. Briand proposing to restore Belgium and to cede Alsace-Lorraine. Lord R. Cecil maintained that he "had no reason to suppose" that such an offer had been made. Mr. King (L.) expressed astonishment at this news having passed the Censor. But Lord R. Cecil said it could not be regarded as having "any military importance in that sense." Surely the peace terms acceptable to Germany are of the utmost "Military importance."

* * * *

October 31st.—Mr. Snowden (Lab.) urged that all offences against military discipline should be tried by a military judge and a jury of soldiers instead of by courts-martial consisting of officers. Mr. Macpherson contended that trial by court-martial is "one of the fairest." Magna Charter laid down that a man should be tried by his peers.

ABRAHAM BEZALEL.

In reply to Mr. King (L.); Sir G. Cave stated that Abraham Bezalel was placed on a ship leaving this country for Scandinavia, with a passport valid for a journey to his own country, Roumania.

VOTE OF CREDIT.

On October 30th and 31st, debates on the Vote of Credit of £400,000,000 took place. Mr. Bonar Law tried to soothe the feelings of the House by stating that the daily average expenditure was now £6,414,000 wich showed a reduction of about a quarter of a million on previous war expenditure. Sir Joseph Walton (L.) dispelled any reassuring result Mr. Law's explanations may have had, by urging that the fact remained, that since the War began Votes of Credit to the amount of £5,692,000,000 had been raised. Mr. Adamson (Lab.) advised the Conscription of the wealth that remains in private hands. He made a very strong plea for a substantial increase in the pay of the Army and Navy. Mr. Buxton (L.), took the opportunity offered to debate War aims. To clear the air and prove his impartiality he said: "I am not a Roman Cathtolic, neither am I a pacifist," yet he seemed in favour of conciliation though he harped rather suggestively on the fact that "we have no quarrel with Austria." Mr. Balfour defended his attitude of last July, by saying that he tried to be as "dull and as cautious as befitted" his position. His repetition of a universal desire for a new Europe, in which there shall be no "future discords which arise from unsatisfied national aspirations," must force the thoughtful to smile!

FOOD CONTROL.

Mr. Lough (L), Mr. Law (I.N.), protested against Food Controllers interfering with prices, and gave instances of the artificial inflation of the prices of the food of the poor by this method.

E. D. MOREL.

A splendid defence of Mr. Morel, was made by Commander Wedgwood (L.), who pointed out how he had begun as a young boy to agitate to improve the condition of the blacks in the Congo. He quoted appreciations of Mr. Morel's great work from M. Vandervelde, Mark Twain, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir A. Conan Doyle and others, and asked "where are those friends now?" He denounced Mr. Morel's imprisonment as "one of the most serious blots on the history of this country."

A PEOPLE'S PEACE.

Nov. 1st.—Mr. Ponsonby (L.) pointed out that hitherto wars have been unsatisfactorily concluded by treaties for which Monarchs, Ministers, and Diplomatists were alone responsible. He therefore urged that some democratic sanction should be obtained at the end of this war, so that the settlement may rest upon the "consent of the people at last." Lord R. Cecil pretended not to understand the meaning of "democratic sanction."

COSTLY PUBLICITY.

The first statement of Sir Auckland Geddes, Minister of National Service, was a reply to Mr. King (L.) explaining now £54,041 9s. was spent on the Press for the Publicity Campaign. The "Daily Mail" heads the list, as having received £2,680 15s. 9d.

Patriotic meetings of "loyalist speakers" are being disturbed by "organised bands of independent labour persons, syndicalists, pro-Hun, and anti-British peace advocates," Mr. Stanton complained. Sir G. Cave knew nothing of the matter. No; he is too much occupied with the job of confiscating peace banners and causing pacifist meetings to be proclaimed and halls cancelled.

NECESSITOUS DUBLIN CHILDREN.

Mr. Byrne (I.N.) suggested that a grant be obtained for feeding necessitous school children in Dublin. Mr. Duke said there were funds still available.—Then why not use them?

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

The Franchise Bill and the change of Boundaries entailed by it, were the subject of a very technical and wearying debate. Some of the speeches showed that proposed amendments, like the addition to the representation of Marylebone and Stepney, might have been avoided had Proportional Representation been adopted.

* * * *

November 5th.—Mr. Bonar Law assured the House that compensation for air raid damage would be made promptly. We hope that this is not merely an empty promise!

INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCE.

Mr. Trevelyan (L.) pointed out that the Russian Foreign Minister seemed to be under a misapprehension as to the nature of the coming Conference.

Mr. Balfour assured the House that the Russian Government was under no misapprehension; what was reported in the Russian Press was another matter altogether. What a strange state of affairs!

Suddenly Major Hunt (U.) is taking an interest in the Vatican! He wants it to forbid Irish Priest to join in the Sinn Fein Movement. When the Vatican tries to help to bring about peace there are rumours in the Unionist Press of Pro-German influence. Does Major Hunt want that in Ireland?

DEBUT OF SIR ERIC GEDDES.

On the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, the new First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Eric Geddes, spoke in the House for the first time.

If he really meant all the complimentary remarks he made about the Navy, Dr. Macnamara's recital of paltry increases and bonuses for the "period of the War" to the Navy seemed rather absurd.

THE LORDS WHO LEGISLATE FOR US.

The fact that honours which carry with them seats and votes in the House of Lords, are bought and sold is openly admitted and in the House of Lords, on October 31st, Lord Sumner said that he was impressed by the fact that no one ventured to deny it. Lord Loreburn said that a friend of his was three times offered a Baronetcy for £20,000 and a Knighthood for £15,000. If he should get a Knighthood first and want a Baronetcy later "the full valuation for the first honour is allowed and such candidate has a prior claim." The Earl of Selborne gave a number of instances in which honours had been offered for sale quoting as his authorities, Sir J. Gildea, S.S.F.A., Dr. Millard (M.O.H. for Leicester), Mr. George Coleman (Mayor of Lewes) and Sir George Kekewich, who had told him that one of his friends whose request for an honour had been granted on the condition, which he had accepted, that he should abandon his opposition to the Licensing Bill. Lord Curzon, always on the side of reaction, answered this by recording the fact that when the fate of the Parliament Bill, which limited the veto of the House of Lords hung in the balance, Lord Loreburn himself, on behalf of the Government, stated that the Prime Minister had secured the assent of the Sovereign to the creation of a number of Peers, large enough to overcome any possible opposition. These honours, he said, were to have been given purely for willingness to record a party vote.

These Peers were to have been created in order to secure the enactment of a measure which was undoubtedly desired by the Majority of the electorate. But the creation of Peers to deal with Peers who, persistently withstand the will of the people, is a farcically out of date method of dealing with the obstruction. The proper course to take is to abolish the House of Lords altogether.

SOLIDARITY.

The Italian Women Workers' paper *La Difesa delle Lavoratrici* has given a striking proof of international solidarity by opening a subscription for the newspaper which is being started by Clara Zetkin, the well-known German woman socialist. 1082.96 lire have been subscribed by Italian socialists.

LYNCH LAW IN CEYLON

During many months Mr. Laurence Ginnell, the Sinn Fein M.P., almost daily called attention to the massacres in Ceylon which took place in 1915. His statements were always met by official denials. The report of the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the new Governor, General Sir John Anderson, now proves, not merely that Mr. Ginnell's accusations were well founded, but that they fell far short of the mark. The Governor of Ceylon says that the man selected by the military authorities to suppress the disturbances which had arisen from a religious quarrel between two sections of natives construed his instructions as a

"commission to administer lynch law . . . . and to make him the leader of a posse of vigilantes sent out to deal with desperadoes, in the manner depicted in cinema shows and dime novels of the 'Wild West'."

This man, Mr. F. N. Sudlow, said at the inquiry:—

"We were told to use our discretion as to what measures we took to enforce law and order, and if we considered it necessary to shoot we were to do so. We were given to understand that it was desired that we should take no prisoners."

Major Bayley testified that, believing this to be what was desired of him, he instructed Corporal Baines that:

"if he thought it advisable for the upholding of law and order that a man be shot, he had to use his own discretion."

Dr. A. W. Smith, an American dentist, said that the Inspector-General of Police told him:

"That we were to get out and act—do something. Search houses; if loot was found take the man of the house out, stand him up against the wall, and shoot him. No inquiries, no inquests, and do not trouble to remove the bodies. Take no prisoners. I was with the Inspector-General of Police an hour or more."

Sir John Anderson, the Governor of Ceylon, blames Mr. Sudlow for it, but the Inspector-General of Police, whilst safeguarding himself by declaring that they were mistaken in thinking that he had authorised their conduct, stated at the inquiry that he approved what Mr. Sudlow and his assistants had done. This throws a very startling light on the manner in which "the white man's burden" is borne by some of our officials. These happenings are said to have been quite unknown to the late Governor of Ceylon and to the Government, but a convenient Indemnity Order in Council was issued, which is now said to protect them from any consequences more serious than that of deprivation of their various administrative offices. Why was the Indemnity Order issued? The moral of all this is that the great capitalist Empires cannot safely be trusted with absolute power over alien populations, and that it is a monstrous piece of hypocrisy to pretend that our Government has seized and intends to hold the German Colonies in order to play the part of saviour to the natives!

HUNGRY DUBLIN CHILDREN

News reaches us from Dublin of the great distress of the poor in that city. Hundreds of children are given dinners every Saturday at the Food Depot in Gardiner Street, the funds being supplied through voluntary subscriptions. Clothing is another difficulty. Those who can help we hope will do all they can to alleviate the wants of these poor half-starved children. These children should, of course, be fed by the local Education authorities under the Act, which enables them to provide free breakfasts, dinners and teas for school children. Send resolutions to Prime Minister and Irish Board of Education.

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WHATS' ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

GREAT PUSH FOR PEACE! SOCIALISM! VOTES FOR ALL!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th.
Hammersmith District.—Meet at 2.30 p.m. and at 6.30 p.m., at 10 South Street, King Street, Hammersmith. Secretary for the day, Mrs. Birch, 10 South Street, King Street, Hammersmith; meetings at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Speakers: Mrs. Birch, Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch, Mr. H. G. Russell, Mrs. Walker.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th.
St. Pancras District.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 p.m., Miss Price.
"Salmon and Ball," 12 (noon), Ex-Inspector Syme.
"The Flagstaff," Hampstead, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Finsbury Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

INDOOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th.
Bow Women's Hall, 6.30 p.m., Mr. Miles Malleson. Reading from his own works. Chair: Mrs. Scurr.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th.
Poplar Small Town Hall, Newby Place, 2.30 p.m., Judge Henry Neil, "Mothers' Pensions." Chair: Mrs. Walker.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15th.
29b, Lincoln's Inn Fields (near Chancery Lane, Holborn end), 3.30p .m., Mr. Fred Hughes, "Education: a Socialist View." Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18th.
Bow Women's Hall, 5 p.m., General Meeting; 6.30 p.m., Mr. E. C. Fairchild, "Internationalism"; chair, Mrs. Walker.

PROVINCIAL

SATURDAY, NOV. 10th.
Gilfach Goch, Bridgend, South Wales, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14th.
Stirchley Institute, 7.30, Miss A. F. Boden, on the Life Story of Helen Kellei, discussion.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th.
William Morris Hall, Somers Road, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Sizer and others.

OLD COCKNEY FAIR

Mrs. Julia Scurr has kindly agreed to open the Fair on Friday, December 14th, at 2.30, and Mr. George Lansbury on Saturday ,December 15th, at 2.30. Contributions are specially invited for the refreshment stall. Other stalls are for fruit, vegetables, flowers, toys, curios, new and secondhand garments, hardware, books (new and old), fancy goods, grocery, pottery, hats and "a bran pie"; all these are in great need of contributions; promises will be gladly received by Miss Tollemarche, 400 Old Ford Road, E. A Sheffield friend has kindly promised to lend a fine piece of old Bow china for the exhibition of Old East London Relics. Friends who possess pictures, engravings, china, and other things suitable for the exhibit, are rquested to send them to Miss Tollemache. Stallholders will wear old cockney dress, the Pearly King and other celebrities are expected to be present.

BIRMINGHAM.

Hon. Sec., Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley. Three meetings held October. October 3rd, Miss H. Walmsley spoke on "The Education Bill," October 17th, Mis Veda Thompson lectured on "The Teaching of Sex Hygiene in Schools." Both speeches were most interesting and were followed by earnest discussions. October 21st, Business Meeting.

Next meeting on Wednesday next, November 14th, in Stirchley Institute at 7.30. Subject "The Life Story of Helen Keller, the Blind Deaf-mute," speaker Miss A. F. Boden. Discussion afterwards.

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MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

YOUNG MOTHER desires situation as home help, where she can take her child.—Apply Box 10 Dreadnought Office.

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A SOLDIER'S VIEW OF HIS DUTY

A STATEMENT BY PRIVATE SIMMONS.

ON my discharge from hospital (pending admission to Roehampton and final discharge from the army) I decided that the only course open for a man who was safe from the horrors, dangers, and discomforts of the battlefield was to work for peace; too many people who are safe themselves shout for the sacrifice of more human life. I felt it a duty and obligation to my comrades who are still suffering and fighting to work for a permanent, honourable peace.

As an old member of the I.L.P. I therefore offered my services to the Party and soon found myself hard at work; the police repeatedly bothered me and seemed to have the word "pension" on the brain. That might prove a good threat to ordinary "criminals," but it had no effect on one who felt his obligation to "old pals" as I did. After I had put in some weeks in organising the Birmingham Conference of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council the police prohibited it. A meeting at Smethwick would have been prohibited only the Mayor refused to sign the prohibition. Oldbury Market Square was forbidden me. Eventually I reached Dudley, where I was arrested by two constables, and released in five minutes owing to the crowd's violent hostility to the police.

When I went to Rochdale on September 24th I looked forward to a quiet life, for Brigadier General Page Croft had addressed meetings for the Tariff Reform League, and sailors had spoken for the Navy League from Rochdale Town Hall Square. But when the police took particulars on Monday night, October 24th, I scented trouble. Tuesday saw a huge crowd in the Square, and before the meeting the Police Inspector and his satellites informed me that if I spoke I should be taken into custody, as my speeches were likely to cause "a breach of the peace." Not wishing to cause "a breach of the peace," I asked the chairman (Mr. J. W. Moor) to see if the crowd wished to hear me. They did. I spoke. I was *not* taken into custody—the crowd was too unfriendly to the police.

Then the police did a cowardly thing: they telephoned for the Military Police from Manchester to do what they were afraid to do—arrest me. But mrak this: *they did not get the Military Police to arrest General Page Croft for breaking King's Regulation 451 in the same square a few weeks before.*

Well, after a night in Rochdale Police cells, a night cheered by the strains of the 'Red Flag' outside the gaol, I was taken to the S.A.P.M. at Chester. This gentleman wished he could have me shot, and sent me into cells with no trial, and after refusing to let me communicate with my wife.

I shall always remember the Chester Cells—for their filth.

On Friday morning I was taken in a locked railway carriage to London and lodged in the cells at the Wallis Yard Detention Barracks, having had absolutely no food all day.

On Monday, October 1st, at 6 P.M., I had a note from my wife in an official envelope, and at 11.30 P.M. I was released, and sent by motor ambulance to Roehampton to get fitted with an artificial foot. My release, I was told, did not preclude re-arrest. Well, I leave that to organised Labour! Either Page-Croft, Major Winston Churchill, and others are arrested also, or King's Regulation 451 is repealed!

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, will speak on "Mothers' Pensions," on Tuesday November 13th, at 2.30 p.m., at the Small Poplar Town Hall, Newby Place. Chair, Mrs. Walker. Admission free.

* * * *

We tender our sympathy to Mrs. Blake, a member of the Hoxton W.S.F., whose child, aged three and a half years, died after being taken to the tube during an air raid.

CONSIDERATION!

General Maude has issued a proclamation announcing that "the peaceful inhabitants of Mesopotamia are at perfect liberty to pursue their ordinary occupations so far as is consistent with the military necessities of the Army of Occupation and are indeed desired to do so." In view of "the considerate treatment thus afforded they are expected to render obedience to British officials." They will be punished by those officials by death or any lesser penalty at the discretion of any competent Court or any Army commander for a number of offences including furnishing liquor to troops or fouling or interfering with the water supply. Should we in this country regard as considerate the hanging or shooting of anyone who had infringed the "no treating" order?

SOLIDARITY.

At Halifax 14 women munition workers doing men's work were fined 5s. each for striking because they thought they "were being used deliberately to cut down the wages of the men."

MONDA SOCIALISMO.

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Give this paper to a friend.

BEN TILLETT, M.P.

It is better that Mr. Ben Tillett should have been returned to Parliament rather than the official Coalition candidate, Sir C. E. Mallet. Though Mr. Tillett succumbed to a bad attack of War fever in 1914, from which he has not yet quite recovered, he is a man of many generous impulses and sympathies, and he has the knowledge born of experience of working-class life which is greatly lacking in Parliament. We were glad to record in these columns that at the Blackpool Trade Union Congress Mr. Tillett showed signs that his jingoism is on the wane, by appealing to Mr. Havelock Wilson, of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union, to abandon the extreme position which he had taken up against the Stockholm proposal. Mr. Tillett then declared that not a man among them must prolong the War by a single second because the War was "too terrible." In an article published by the "Daily Chronicle" Mr. Tillett attributes his great majority chiefly to his electioneering advocacy of "the ruthless elimination of the profiteer" and of better pay for the soldiers and their dependants. On these questions we find ourselves in agreement with Mr. Tillett, and wish him well in the difficult task of forwarding them at Westminster.

But he adds: "I found enthusiastic support on the question of reprisals, and on the question of continuing the War, *and of a settlement to be made in conference with representatives of the people.*" When Mr. Tillett gets to Westminster he will find that he has adopted portions of the programmes put forward by two opposing political camps, between which he will shortly be called upon to choose. May he choose wisely! We shall watch with interest his Parliamentary progress.

Printed by the National Labour Press Ltd., 8 and 9 Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, E.C.4, and Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.